

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

NIC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /125 W

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R 091552Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4867

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1702

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS BF

SUBJ: BOGOTA MEETING OF LA FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: STATE 217631

1. MINEXTAFF ADVISES THAT BAHAMAS HAS FINALLY RECEIVED INVITATION TO BOGOTA MEETING NOVEMBER 14-16 BUT WILL NOT, FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, ATTEND.

2. PERMANENT SECRETARY ORIS RUSSELL SAID THAT THE GCOB HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE MEETING "AT A VERY LATE DATE". HE SAID THAT AN ADDED PROBLEM HAD BEEN THAT THE LENGTHY INVITATION, WHICH ARRIVED VIA COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES, HAD BEEN IN SPANISH. IT APPARENTLY TOOK SOME TIME TO FIND A COMPETENT TRANSLATOR IN THE BAHAMIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

JUST AS THE TRANSLATION WAS BEING COMPLETED, RUSSELL'S PERSONAL SECRETARY RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BOGOTA, FROM AN AIDE TO THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, APOLOGIZING FOR THE DELAY AND EXTENDING THE INVITATION ORALLY IN ENGLISH. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, ACCORDING TO RUSSELL, A VOICE PRESUMED TO BE THAT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER COULD BE HEARD EXCLAIMING "BUT THEY'RE THE NEWEST SOVEREIGN NATION IN THE HEMISPHERE, WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG TO INVITE THEM, AND THEN
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IN SPANISH?" RUSSELL RECOUNTED THIS WITH GREAT HUMOR AND NO

APPARENT HARD FEELINGS.

3. RUSSELL SAID THAT THE BAHAMAS WOULD NOT ATTEND THE MEETING BECAUSE : (A) THE OPENING DATE WAS TOO NEAR FOR ANY ADEQUATE PREPARATION WITHIN THE GCOB; (B) THE MINISTRY COULDN'T SPARE THE PERSONNEL--LET ALONE MINISTER ADDERLEY HIMSELF--TO ATTEND; AND (C) BECAUSE THE ATTITUDE WITHIN THE MINISTRY IS THAT THIS IS ONLY A PRELIMINARY MEETING TO, IN RUSSELL'S WORDS, "COOK UP THINGS TO SOCK UNCLE SAM WITH LATER."

4. COMMENT: BAHAMIAN FAILURE ATTEND THIS MEETING DOES NOT IMPLY THAT GCOB WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING FUTURE SUCH MEETINGS OR IN KEEPING ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS GROWING OUT OF NEXT WEEK'S SESSIONS. EMBASSY WILL BE GLAD TO PASS ON ANY INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY DEPT. SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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